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July 22, 2021

Louisiana Ethics Administration Program
P.O. Box 4368
Baton Rouge, LA 70821

RE: Request for Advisory Opinion: Re Hiring of High
School Teacher

Dear Members of the Board:

I have been retained by the Tangipahoa Parish School Board ("TPSB") in connection with this request for an advisory opinion.

The request regards the potential hiring of a "Teacher A" at a high school in Tangipahoa Parish. Teacher A began working with the high school robotics team through LSU and FIRST Robotics Competition, an International Robotics Competition five years ago in 2016. He received compensation through LSU for his work provided to the high school. Through his work with the program, FIRST helped design the new Louisiana STEM pathway that students are recognized for on their diploma. Teacher A is a mechanical engineer and certified teacher.

In 2017, "Teacher B" was promoted to interim principal of the High School (hereinafter referred to as "Principal"). Principal was further promoted to permanent principal in 2018.

In January of 2021, after the physics teacher resigned, Teacher A temporarily taught two classes at the high school.

In February of 2021, Teacher A married Principal's daughter.

Teacher A has applied for a full time teaching position to include three classes, one dual enrollment class with LSU and two additional classes. Teacher A is uniquely qualified based on his educational background, continued involvement in the High School's Robotics program, and involvement in the creation of the STEM pathway. Additionally, the High School has faced

ETHICS ADMIN. BOARD
JUL 23 2021



extreme difficulty filling the subject position resulting in frequent turnover resulting in the hiring of six uncertified teachers over the years.

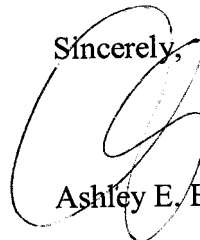
Based on the forgoing facts, the TPSB requests an advisory opinion on the following issue:

1. Whether Teacher A can be hired as a full time teacher in a school wherein he has been serving as Robotics Team Liaison for five years prior with compensation from LSU after subsequently marrying Principal's daughter?
2. If Teacher A may be hired, does a disqualification plan need to be developed in accordance with the rules adopted by the Board to remove a public servant from participating in transactions that would otherwise present violations of Sections 1112 of the Code?

If you have any questions concerning this request or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,



Ashley E. Bass

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